

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03043 110435Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /037 W

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R 100650Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 663

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 3043

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, MY, SN

SUBJ: SINGAPORE REACTIONS TO MALAYSIAN ELECTIONS

1. SINGAPORE HAS FOLLOWED MALAYSIAN ELECTION CLOSELY, BECAUSE OF BOTH HISTORIC TIES WITH MALAYSIA, AND MEMORY OF SPILLOVER OF COMMUNAL INCIDENTS AFTER MALAYSIAN 1969 ELECTION RIOTS. ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL JULY 7TH ARTICLE, BASED IN PART ON DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, PROVIDES SOUND ANALYSIS AND WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

2. SINGAPORE PRESS COVERAGE HAS BEEN HEAVY, WITH BANNER HEADLINE FRONT-PAGE STORIES OVER PAST FEW DAYS ON NATIONAL FRONT'S VICTORY. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN RESTRAINED, GIVING NO INDICATION OF SINGAPOREAN PREFERENCES. EDITORIAL IN JULY 10 STRAITS TIMES, HOWEVER, REFLECTS GOVERNMENT VIEWS IN WELCOMING VICTORY OF PRAGMATIC MODERATE HUSSEIN ONN.

3. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. EDITORIAL EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

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"THE PEOPLE OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA HAVE GIVEN THEIR VERDICT. IABSYJ A RESOUNDING ENDORSEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN ONN AND THE RULING NATIONAL FRONT'S DESIGN FOR PEACE, STABILITY AND A CLEAN GOVERNMENT."

"THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE BIGGEST VOTE-CATCHER FOR THE FRONT WAS THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF.

WITH HIS MODERATE LEADERSHIP AND FIRM AND NO-NONSENSE  
APPROACH TO CRISIS SITUATION IN THE PAST YEAR, DATUK  
HUSSEIN HAS COME TO SYMBOLIZE FOR THE PEOPLE THE  
FRONT'S PROMISE OF A JUST AND CLEAN GOVERNMENT."

"THE OFFICIAL RESULTS BELIE THE PERFORMANCE OF  
THE OPPOSITION. DESPITE AN UPHILL BATTLE AGAINST  
THE RULING PARTY AND LAST MINUTE DEFECTIONS BY  
DISGRUNTLED MEMBERS, THE DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY  
HAS ACQUITTED ITSELF CREDITABLY. PAS WAS NO PUSHOVER,  
BUT GAVE THE FRONT A RUN FOR ITS MONEY IN MANY OF  
THE CONSTITUENCIES WHERE THEY FACED EACH OTHER IN  
STRAIGHT FIGHTS. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FRONT'S  
CONVINCING VICTORY, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT  
THE OVERALL PROTEST VOTES BOTH FROM THE TRADITIONALLY  
OPPOSITION URBAN AREAS AND THE MORE CONSERVATIVE  
RURAL MALAY CONSTITUENCIES HAVE INCREASED. IT IS  
SOMETHING THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT AFFORD TO OVERLOOK.  
BUT OVERALL MALAYSIANS HAVE ONCE AGAIN OPTED FOR  
STABILITY AND A MODERATE LEADERSHIP. AND FOR DATUK  
HUSSEIN, THE ELECTIONS REPRESENT AN UNEQUIVOCAL  
MANDATE TO RULE IN HIS OWN RIGHT."

INGRAHAM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, MY, SN  
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